DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 20 OCT 1978

[redacted]

May 2, 1961 - Tuesday

Basil Taylor lunched with us. We reviewed the photographs of Paul Mellon's English pictures, and selected about 20 of them to be forwarded from Washington. Tonight, I was guest of honor at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel given by the Pilgrims. There were some 500 people whom I received with Lord Birkett and Sir Christopher Chancellor. Lord Birkett, aged 78, is perhaps the most famous toastmaster in London. He is urbane and witty, with a prodigious memory. Lord Hailsham introduced me in a rousing thirty minute speech. I responded in about half that time. It was a pleasant occasion. My speech was:

(See separate sheets)

May 3, 1961 - Wednesday

Arthur Schlesinger left us yesterday to return home. He has seen dozens of influential people in London, and it has been useful to have him here.

Walton Butterworth came to breakfast with me, and we discussed [redacted] European integration matters. I was visited by Ted Connell, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and photographed with him. He was accompanied by Brigadier General J.D. Little, USMC, Retired.

I lunched with Don Cook at the Garrick Club. Drew Middleton had drinks with us beforehand in what seemed [redacted] the most animated bar in London. I love the Garrick. Its pictures represent almost the whole of English theatrical history. Bill Stoneman of the Chicago

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The oratory was of good caliber. The Prime Minister made a fine speech. Air Chief Marshal, Sir Thomas Pike, Sir Malcolm Sargent, and the President, Sir Charles Thomas Wheeler were the other speakers. Sir Albert Richardson, the famous architect, told me [redacted] that Benjamin West, the American born second President of the Royal Academy of Arts, had started painting with brushes made from the fur of cats' tails. I got home about 11PM and had almost immediately a telephone call from President Kennedy in Washington. He was aroused over a telegram from Ambassador Brown in Vientiane about the deteeriation of the military situation there. The Communists are making rapid and dangerous advances, paying no attention to the supposed agreement for a cease-fire. There was also an ominous statement from Chou-en-lai, demanding the withdrawal of personnel and equipment by the U.S., Thailand, South Vietnam and Chiang kai-chek's Chinese before a cease-fire would be made effective.

[redacted]